

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-14 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being independent.

Applicant and Applicant's Representative thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview conducted on December 19, 2006. Applicant believes that the present amendment and response reflects the substance of that interview.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eichberger et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,815,934). Applicants have amended claim 1 to obviate this rejection.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a planar that includes, among other features, a conduit defined within the body for directing the airflow where the conduit is in communication with the first and second exhaust apertures and the conduit is directly connected to the recess for entraining and removing debris ejected from the recess. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Eichberger does not describe or suggest a conduit defined within the body for directing airflow, where the conduit is in communication with the first and second exhaust apertures and where the conduit is directly connected to the recess for entraining and removing debris ejected from the recess.

Instead, in Eichberger, the air channel 30 is not connected to the drum compartment 18 where the cutting drum 15 is rotatably mounted. The air channel 30 and the drum compartment 18 are separated by lower boundary wall 32. The air channel 30 ends in a connection opening

29. On the other hand, the drum compartment ends at inlet opening 28. Connection opening 29 and inlet opening 28 are separated by lower boundary wall 32. Note that lower boundary wall 32 also serves as the upper boundary wall of the drum compartment 18. Thus, the air flow from air channel 30 never goes near the inlet opening 28 by the drum compartment and never entrains debris in the vicinity of the inlet opening. See Eichberger Fig. 3 and col. 3, lines 64 to col. 4, line 21. The airflow conveyed by the fan wheel 11 passes through the air channel 30 and through the air passage openings 53 of chips ejection insert 50. The area above the air passage openings 53 are connected to the connection opening 29. See Eichberger, col. 5, lines 15-37.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claim 1.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al. (DE3542263). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed during the in-person interview, Applicant obtained a full English translation of Maier, a copy of which is being provided by separate correspondence in an Information Disclosure Statement.

After review of the full English translation, Maier fails to describe or suggest a conduit defined within the body for directing the airflow where the conduit is in communication with the first and second exhaust apertures and the conduit is directly connected to the recess for entraining and removing debris ejected from the recess, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 13.

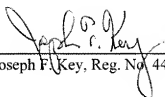
Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is an authorization to charge the fees for a three month extension of time to
Account No. 02-2548. Please charge any deficiencies or credits to Account No. 02-2548.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this
application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (410) 716-2830.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/2/2007

By: 
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